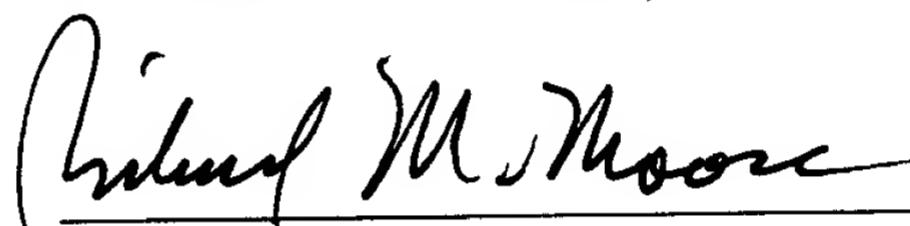


CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing comments, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the current grounds of rejection and the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance for claims 1-79. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at his convenience should only minor issues remain after consideration of this response in order to permit early resolution of the same.

Respectfully submitted,

DORITY & MANNING,
ATTORNEYS AT LAW, P.A.



Richard M. Moose, Esquire
Reg. No. 31,226

Post Office Box 1449
Greenville, SC 29602
Telephone: (864) 271-1592
Facsimile: (864) 233-734

March 31, 2003

Date

Appendix A

MARKED-UP COPY OF CLAIM AMENDMENTS

9. (Amended) An electricity meter as in claim 8, further including;
a circuit board, at least partially supported on said chassis, providing additional functionality beyond the functionality provided by said metrology board [for performing predetermined relatively higher level analysis of electricity consumption]; and
a fixed connector interconnecting between said metrology board and said circuit board for electrical connections there between and for at least partial mechanical support of said circuit board.
16. (Amended) An electricity meter, having:
an enclosure comprising a cover and a baseplate;
spades extending out from said baseplate for being seated in a meter receiving junction box;
a metrology board electrically connected to said spades and capable of producing a signal indicating electricity consumption; and
a circuit board mounted within said enclosure and electrically connected to said metrology board, said circuit board providing additional functionality beyond the functionality provided by said metrology board [selected customized features for said electricity meter beyond said metrology board electricity consumption signal].

30. (Amended) A meter as in claim 25, wherein said circuit board provides additional functionality beyond the functionality provided by said metrology board [includes selected customized metrology features beyond said metrology board electricity consumption signal].

34. (Amended) An electricity meter, having:
an enclosure comprising a cover and a baseplate;
spades extending out from said baseplate for insertion into a meter box receptacle;
a basic metrology board, having first and second opposing surfaces, wherein said metrology board is electrically connected to said spades and capable of metering electricity consumption;
a circuit board, having third and fourth opposing surfaces, wherein said circuit board provides additional functionality beyond the functionality provided by said metrology board [for predetermined additional metrology features], wherein said circuit board is mounted within said enclosure and electrically connected to said metrology board; and
an antenna, associated directly with a selected of the first, second, third and fourth opposing surfaces, [supported on one of said metrology board and said circuit board] for transmitting through said cover a radio signal corresponding with metrology data from at least one of said boards.

42. (Amended) A modular electricity meter with multiple components selected from alternatives and assembled with snap fit and interlocking arrangements, comprising:
an encloseable casing having a common baseplate with plural mounting posts and an inner cover removably interconnected thereto;
a plurality of electrical connection mounting spades extending from said casing through said baseplate and outwardly therefrom, for mechanical seating thereof in an electricity meter junction box receptacle;
a basic metrology board, defining mounting holes therein for mating with said baseplate

mounting posts for support of said basic metrology board within said casing in a predetermined relationship with said baseplate;

a plurality of resilient connectors received within said casing and electrically connecting between said basic metrology board and said spades so that said basic metrology board is connected for producing a signal indicating electricity consumption at the junction box receptacle with which said electricity meter is associated;

a circuit board received within said casing and electrically connected with said basic metrology board, said circuit board providing additional functionality beyond the functionality provided by said metrology board [selected customized features for said electricity meter beyond said basic metrology board electricity consumption signal];

a common power supply received within said casing for providing power to both said basic metrology board and said circuit board;

a fixed connector extending between said basic metrology board and said circuit board, for at least partially mechanically supporting said circuit board, said fixed connector including multiple respective conductors for carrying between said basic metrology board and said circuit board both data from said respective boards and power from said common power supply;

a support chassis, defining mounting holes therein for mating with said baseplate mounting posts for support of said chassis within said casing in a predetermined relationship with said baseplate;

a meter display mounted in snap fit arrangement supported in fixed relation to said support chassis;

a coil electrically associated with said spades and physically supported in predetermined relationship to said baseplate; and

a Hall Effect sensor associated with said basic metrology board and situated in a predetermined position relatively adjacent said coil for electrical sensing interaction therewith, said predetermined position being formed in part by said predetermined relationship between said baseplate and said basic metrology board;

whereby said modular electricity meter establishes predetermined spatial relationships between selected alternative components using snap fit and interlocking arrangements established from said common baseplate.

65. (Amended) Methodology for providing an electricity meter, comprising:
providing an enclosure with a baseplate and a cover without any metal elements;
extending spades from said baseplate for electrical contact of said meter with main power by insertion of said spades in an electricity meter junction box receptacle;
providing a metrology board having first and second opposing surfaces, wherein said metrology board is electrically connected with said spades and capable of metering electricity consumption; and
providing [supporting] an antenna associated directly with a selected of the first and second opposing surfaces of [on] said metrology board for transmitting directly therefrom through said cover a radio signal corresponding with electricity consumption as metered by said metrology board.

66. (Amended) A methodology as in claim 65, including further providing:
a circuit board providing additional functionality beyond the functionality provided by said metrology board [for additional metrology features], mounted within said enclosure;
a common power supply within said enclosure for both said metrology board and said circuit board; and
a fixed connector at least partially physically supporting said circuit board and electrically connecting said circuit board with said metrology board using multiple conductors for carrying both data and power signals between said boards.

69. (Amended) Methodology for providing a modular electricity meter with multiple components selected from alternatives and assembled with snap fit and interlocking arrangements, comprising:

providing an encloseable casing having a common baseplate with plural mounting posts and an inner cover removably interconnected thereto;

extending a plurality of electrical connection mounting spades from said casing through said baseplate and outwardly therefrom, for mechanical seating thereof in an electricity meter junction box receptacle;

providing a basic metrology board, defining mounting holes therein for mating with said baseplate mounting posts for support of said basic metrology board within said casing in a predetermined relationship with said baseplate;

receiving a plurality of resilient connectors situated within said casing and electrically connecting between said basic metrology board and said spades so that said basic metrology board is connected for producing a signal indicating electricity consumption at the junction box receptacle with which said electricity meter is associated;

situating a circuit board within said casing and electrically connected with said basic metrology board, said circuit board providing additional functionality beyond the functionality provided by said metrology board [selected customized features for said electricity meter beyond said basic metrology board electricity consumption signal];

including a common power supply received within said casing for providing power to both said basic metrology board and said circuit board;

extending a fixed connector between said basic metrology board and said circuit board, for at least partially mechanically supporting said circuit board, said fixed connector including multiple respective conductors for carrying between said basic metrology board and said circuit board both data from said respective boards and power from said common power supply;

including a support chassis, defining mounting holes therein for mating with said baseplate mounting posts for support of said chassis within said casing in a predetermined relationship with said baseplate;

mounting a meter display in snap fit arrangement supported in fixed relation to said support chassis;

electrically associating a coil with said spades and physically supported in predetermined

relationship to said baseplate; and

associating a Hall Effect sensor with said basic metrology board and situated in a predetermined position relatively adjacent said coil for electrical sensing interaction therewith, said predetermined position being formed in part by said predetermined relationship between said baseplate and said basic metrology board;

whereby such methodology for providing such a modular electricity meter establishes predetermined spatial relationships between selected alternative components using snap fit and interlocking arrangements established from said common baseplate.